

The Bell companies have not shown by their past or present behavior that they can be trusted to do anything in the consumers favor. Competitive access to access lines must be promoted at fair rates. Expecting the Bell companies to bring broadband access at reasonable rates to the consumers is a pipe dream. They jhave all the facilities today to bring broadband to the consumer and at a reasonable price - yet they have failed to do so.

Competition requires competitors to be alive. If the FCC lifts the dominant classification from the Local Exchange Carriers (Bells), it will limit competition to a duopoly consisting of a bell and a cable company. Competition in the American Telecom marketplace will not be incentivized, it will be torpedoed. ISPs and CLECs will die, consumers will be deprived of choice and the FCC will be wholly to blame for the travesty. DO NOT DO IT. Chairman Powell: Please do not sell out to BIG BUSINESS, at the expense of competition and the small businesses of our country.